

In the Claims (clean copy as amended)

Kindly amend the claims as follows:

*10/24*  
1. (Amended) A method for isomerizing aromatic compounds, which comprises contacting at least one aromatic compound with a zeolite-containing catalyst, and in which the zeolite is characterized in that:

(1) the minimum value of the pore aperture diameter of the major channels therein is larger than 0.65 nanometers, or the maximum value thereof is larger than 0.70 nanometers, and

(2) the major channels do not intersect any others with larger apertures than oxygen 10-membered ring;

and the aromatic compounds are at least one selected from the group consisting of:

(a) aromatic compounds having at least three substituents,

(b) aromatic compounds having two substituents of which at least one is a halogen

*10/26* or has at least 2 carbon atoms, and

(c) naphthalene or anthracene derivatives having substituent(s).

2. (Amended) The method for isomerizing aromatic compounds as claimed in claim 1, wherein the minimum value of the pore aperture diameter of the major channels in the zeolite is not smaller than 0.7 nanometers.

3. (Amended) The method for isomerizing aromatic compounds as claimed in claim 1 or 2, wherein the pore aperture size of the major channels in the zeolite is larger than oxygen 12-membered ring.

4. (Amended) The method for isomerizing aromatic compounds as claimed in claim 1 or 2, wherein the catalyst is contacted with a substituted aromatic compound in which at least one substituent is a halogen.

A26 5. (Amended) The method for isomerizing aromatic compounds as claimed in claim 1 or 2, wherein the catalyst is contacted with an aromatic compound having at least three substituents.

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**Kindly add the following new claims:**

6. (New) The method according to Claim 1, wherein said zeolite is one selected from the group consisting of SSZ-31, VFI, AET, AFI, AFR, AFS, ATS, BOG, BPH, DFO, GME, LTL, MAZ, MEI, OFF, CFI having large pores of which the pore entrance diameter is larger than an oxygen 12-membered ring pore, and UTD-1.

DB 7. (New) The method according to Claim 1, wherein the maximum value of a pore entrance diameter is at most 1.1 nm.

A27 8. (New) The method according to Claim 1, wherein said zeolite has a one-dimensional pore system.

9. (New) The method according to Claim 1, wherein said zeolite is synthetic.

10. (New) The method according to Claim 1, wherein said zeolite has a crystal size of at most 1  $\mu\text{m}$ .

11. (New) The method according to Claim 1, wherein said zeolite is formed.

12. (New) The method according to Claim 1, wherein said catalyst contains metal.

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